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National Institute of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS)

Availability:	This measurement tool is freely accessible at: NIH Stroke Scale.
Classification:	Supplemental - Highly Recommended: Stroke (based on study type, disease stage and disease type)
Short Description of Instrument:	<p><u>Purpose.</u></p> <p>The NIHSS is a 11-item neurologic examination stroke scale used to evaluate the effect of acute cerebral infarction on the levels of consciousness, language, neglect, visual-field loss, extraocular movement, motor strength, ataxia, dysarthria, and sensory loss.</p> <p><u>Overview.</u></p> <p>The NIHSS is a tool used to rapidly assess the effects of stroke. The NIHSS is currently being validated for pediatric stroke.</p> <p><u>Time.</u></p> <p>The examination requires less than 10 minutes to complete.</p> <p><u>Scoring.</u></p> <p>Ratings for each stroke scale item are scored with 3 to 5 grades with 0 as normal, and there is an allowance for un-testable items. A trained observer rates the patient's ability to answer questions and perform activities.</p> <p><u>Psychometric Properties.</u></p> <p>The NIHSS was designed and validated for ischemic stroke. However, further research is needed to determine its advantages and its advantages over simpler scales to assess disability after hemorrhagic strokes. Reliability was found to be excellent overall and moderate to excellent for most individual scales. The survey can also reliably be used to assess patients through a remote television link, although it requires slightly more time to complete. The NIHSS has been modified from its initial configuration by the elimination of some aspects which showed poor reliability, and the expansion of other aspects.</p>
References:	<p>Brott, T., H.P. Adams Jr., C.P. Olinger, J.R. Marler, W.G. Barsan, J. Biller, J. Spilker, R. Holleran, R. Eberle, V. Hertzberg, M. Rorick, C.J. Moomaw, and M. Walker (1989) Measurements of acute cerebral infarction: a clinical examination scale. Stroke, 20, 964-970.</p> <p>Brott, T.G., E.C. Haley, Jr., D.E. Levy, W. Barsan, J. Broderick, G.L. Sheppard, J. Spilker, G.L. Dongable, S. Massey, and R. Reed (1992) Urgent therapy for stroke, I: Pilot study of tissue plasminogen activator administered within 90 minutes. Stroke 23, 632-640.</p> <p>Goldstein, L., C. Bertels, J. Davis (1989) Interrater reliability of the NIH Stroke Scale. Arch. Neurol. 46, 660-662.</p>